

The Cairo Evening Bulletin.

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JOHN H. OBERLY & CO

THE ARABS.

Tenth Annual Report of their President.

Ladies, Gentlemen and Brothers.

It devolves upon me, as the chief magistrate of this company, to briefly review its history for the past year, and previous ones from its organization; and it is with a deal of pleasure I appear before such a large and intelligent assembly, to deliver this, my tenth annual address.

Ten years ago this very night, this hour, this minute, this company brought into existence, in an old frame building, used for a tin shop, and was used by us for some time also, as our engine house, where now stands Winter's block. Myself and eleven others signed and framed the constitution and by-laws—that memorable and never-to-be-forgotten instrument that we launched our bark out on, and that has governed us up to the present time. Of these twelve original founders, there are but two remaining, G. W. Weldon and myself. One of the number we lost by death, the other nine have removed from the city.

When I look back and think of the glorious deeds that have been done by this company, originating from such a small body; and cast my eyes around this stage this evening, and see such a large and flourishing company so well organized, I can say with pride, our labor for the past ten years, has not been in vain, and that a bright and glorious future is in prospect for us.

It also affords me great pleasure to have with us our brother firemen from Paducah, the noble State of Kentucky; also Mayors of different cities, the Mayor and Councilmen of the city of Cairo, members of the press, and other distinguished guests, both from abroad and at home, all uniting with us in celebrating our anniversary. And as Arabs we tender them all the hospitalities of the Arab Camp; so when they return home, they will always remember the Arab company and the members composing it, with lively gratitude and a heartfelt wish for its future prosperity.

In the organization, and during the life of this company, we have made no processions, resplendent with the glitter and pomp of circumstance to increase our numbers, but have always pursued the even tenor of our way, doing good service whenever and wherever duty calls us. Let it be in times of fire, at the sick couch or around the dismal grave. There you find the Arab, with his administering hand always ready; then and there you see the workings of this institution in all its glory, its action speaking louder than words. To carry out the great objects of this company and to perpetuate the same, from applicants for membership, we select none but the best of men. And I can safely say tonight, I defy any company in the United States to show a better record, or to surpass us in the material we are composed of.

I shall now, as briefly as possible, give you an account of the number of alarms of fire in the past ten years, their origin, loss, etc., to-wit: Alarms, 291, 76 of them burning chimneys or totally false, and 215 actual fires, at 165 of which this company did actual service, and in many cases the only company at work. The amount of property destroyed during this period is as follows: From

Sept. 1, 1859, to Sept. 1, 1869, \$137,370 00
" 1, 1860, to 1, 1861, 10,235 00
" 1, 1861, to 1, 1862, 67,718 00
" 1, 1862, to 1, 1863, 67,475 00
" 1, 1863, to 1, 1864, 71,875 00
" 1, 1864, to 1, 1865, 69,728 00
" 1, 1865, to 1, 1866, 126,083 00
" 1, 1866, to 1, 1867, 64,453 00
" 1, 1867, to 1, 1868, 106,930 00
Total losses \$1,448,292 00

Being an amount about one-half of all the taxable property in the city, including real estate, personal property, monies, bank stocks, etc., said amount would erect another Cairo as large as the Cairo of today. Not quite one-half of this amount being covered by insurance, it has been a severe loss to the inhabitants and has driven many a man from our city.

The number of alarms the past year was 20, to-wit: false, 1; burning chimneys, 1; lamp burning, 2; actual fires, 18; at 15 of these the company did actual service, and in all cases was the first to work, putting out several fires before the other companies got to work, and at some fires working over four hours all alone. Deduct the loss of steamboats burned at our wharf the past year, would reduce the loss in Cairo proper to \$71,930, or the sum of \$7,495 over the previous year.

The expense for the maintenance of the company for the past year has, by strict economy been much less than the previous one. The year's expenses being \$618 22, as follows: Repairs \$71 22, salaries \$150 05; relief benefits, \$115 30; printing and taxes \$22 25; sundries \$259 40.

Since our organization 232 persons have united themselves with us, during which time, we have lost nine members by death, three of them by accident. One hundred and forty-nine have either resigned, removed from our city, or been expelled for non-payment of dues to the Relief Fund, and seventy-four active members in good standing on company roll this evening, comprising some of the very best citizens.

Since the organization of the company, up to the present time, by strict economy and financial ability, it has accumulated the following real estate, personal property, cash, bonds, etc.:

Engine House and Lot, 23,500 00
Three hundred and sixty acre farm, 1,500 00
Vacant Lot, 200 00
One Steam Engine, 1,500 00
One Horse, 100 00
Two Horse Reels for Steam, 100 00
One Hand Engine, "Little Arab," 200 00
Horse Cart for same and 500 feet Horse, 200 00
One Coal Cart, 200 00
Hill Furniture and Store, 200 00
Company Regalia and Peripherals, 200 00
Bell and Clock, 200 00
Notes for money loaned, etc., 600 00
Due from members, 475 63
Due from City, 185 17
Funds in Relief Fund, 2,434 20
Funds in General Fund, 1,329 82
Total assets \$21,196 84

And not one dollar of our scrip out. It is confidently expected that early in the

spring will see the commencement of our new engine house, there being parties in New York corresponding with us and offering to take our bonds; and when completed it will be an ornament to any city. The contemplated cost of it is estimated to be over \$25,000. Before concluding I would say, we are not only a fire company, but also a benevolent and charitable association as you will perceive by my report of assets. We have in our Relief Fund the sum of \$2,434 20, and rapidly increasing, for the benefit of the sick Arab, the widow and the orphan. Said fund is a sacred fund, and is maintained by a monthly assessment of fifty cents on each member, and in case of death an assessment of one dollar is assessed upon each living one. This plan has worked so well, and with so much success that the railroad conductors have adopted a similar plan, also other benevolent societies.

The company now being ten years old and working under a charter from the State which continues it in force until the year 1900, exempting members from militia duty, road and poll tax, jury service, etc.; and when sick the sum of seven dollars per week is given, and in case of death all funeral expenses paid, besides various other benefits, making it a very desirable as well as a useful institution to be connected with.

In conclusion let me say that the company being founded on such a solid basis, together with the character and standing of the men composing its members, and the fair-famed reputation it has earned, is a sure guarantee of the future prospects and prosperity of the old reliable, independent Arab Fire Company. Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

A horned frog has been received at Cummins, Ill., Ohio, from California. It came by mail, and seventeen stamps were required to send it through.

A child in Lebanon, Indiana, bursted an eyeball during a paroxysm of whooping cough the other day.

The last Carlist rising cost the Spanish Government 10,000,000 reals.

Another diamond has been found at Cape of Good Hope. It is valued at \$400,000.

California papers say that they cannot help it if eastern dealers ask "hog prices" for Pacific fruits.

The Rev. Mr. Rossi, of Palmer, Mass., put up his horse at a raffle the other day, and sold 300 tickets at 50 cents each.

General Longstreet, the Surveyor of New Orleans, has appointed several colored men to positions, in his department.

Prof. Boehm, one of the most celebrated surgeons of Berlin, has just died from blood poisoning, contracted while dissecting a corpse.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SELECT COUNCIL.

(Regular meeting.)

Cairo, Ill., September 1, 1869.

Present—His honor the Mayor, and Councilmen Jorgensen, Martin, O'Callahan, Rearden and Williamson—5.

The following report of the Finance Committee was ordered to be entered on the records, and the reading dispensed with.

GENTLEMEN: Your Finance Committee, to whom were assigned the duty of investigating the financial condition of the city government, in order that the Council might intelligently determine the rate of taxation which should be levied upon the present assessment of property, would respectfully report as follows:

The Municipal Taxes.
Section 1, Article V, of the Charter, gives to the Council power to levy and collect taxes for three purposes, viz:

FIRST. To defray the contingent and other expenses of the city, not otherwise provided for, the taxes for this purpose collected, together with the moneys arising from licenses and all other sources, and not otherwise appropriated by the Charter, to be designated: "The General Fund."

SECOND. To defray the cost and expenses of making improvements upon the streets, avenues and public grounds of the city, not otherwise provided for, including expenses for the public sewers, pumps and drainage, the taxes for this purpose collected to be designated: "The Improvement Fund."

THIRD. To pay the interest on bonds of the city, and for the creation of a Sinking Fund, the taxes for this purpose collected to be designated: "The Interest Fund."

Amount of Tax Levy.
For the General Fund, one-half of one per centum per annum, upon the assessed value of all property in the city, real and personal, may be levied; for the Improvement Fund, one-half of one per centum; and for the Interest Fund, one-half of one per centum. By Section 23, Amendment to the Charter, authority is given to levy a special tax, sufficient to pay interest upon bonds issued in settlement of any judgment against, or other indebtedness of the city, from which section the Council derives power to obtain interest upon the Fox, Howard & Co. bonds.

Stamps, including Jailor's wages while work, \$4,000 00
Sewerage, 3,500 00
Sidewalks, 3,500 00
Drainage, 2,000 00
Total \$13,000 00

EXPENDITURES FROM INTEREST AND SINKING FUND.

On bonds—\$171,053 99 \$ 10,220 87
On Fox, Howard & Co's bonds, 9,750 00
Bonds becoming due, 3,540 10
Total \$23,510 97

RECAPITULATION.

General Fund, \$26,135 00

Is a Full Levy Necessary?
That we may determine whether it is necessary to levy up to the authority of the Charter, we must ascertain, by estimating the probable expenses of the city government, how much money will be required during the current fiscal year for each fund mentioned above. In pursuance of this object we have prepared the following tables, viz:

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES FROM GENERAL FUND.	
RECAPITULATION.	
Mayor	\$ 1,000 00
Clerk	1,200 00
Treasurer	1,200 00
Controller	600 00
Marshal	600 00
Police Magistrate	300 00
Chief of Police	1,000 00
Six Police Constables	5,400 00
Market Master	600 00
Total \$13,000 00	
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Clerk's Office and Council Chamber	\$ 600 00
Printing and Advertising	2,000 00
Fire Department	2,000 00
Gas	2,000 00
Electricity	200 00
Market House	200 00
Board of Health	250 00
Indebted	4,000 00
Total \$13,000 00	

EXPENDITURES FROM IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Improvement Fund, \$9,750 00
Interest Fund, 3,540 10
Total estimated Expenditures, \$13,290 10

Scrip and Money.
Of this amount, if a full levy were made, \$35,635 00 might be paid in orders on the treasury, and \$24,210 57 in money. The money to pay the bonds due, and becoming due within the year, must be raised by a levy made under section 1, article 1, and the interest on the Fox, Howard & Co. bonds, \$9,750 00, by a levy under section 23, amendment to the charter.

Source of City's Revenue.
The revenue to pay this indebtedness, is derived from licenses, fines, the market, street tax and by taxation on the general warrant. The estimated income from the four first mentioned sources is as follows, viz:

Licenses from Police Magistrate, 1,000 00
Market, 1,000 00
Street Tax, 2,000 00
Total \$4,000 00

Amount of General Warrant.

Deducting from \$35,635 00, the amount that might be paid in scrip, \$16,500 00, income from licenses, fines, market and street tax, we find that, to defray the estimated expenses of the city government, over and above the income from licenses, &c., \$19,135 00 must be raised upon the general warrant, besides the amount to be raised to pay interest upon bonds, &c.

Contingent.
The above figures are estimated, and in the opinion of your committee, a margin of say \$5,000 should be left to meet extraordinary and unlooked for expenditures which it may be necessary to make during the year. This amount, added to the estimated \$19,135 00, gives \$24,135 00 as the limit of the city expenditures over and above the income from licenses, &c., for twelve months. The assessed value of property for 1869 is \$3,500,867.

The Levy for Current Year.
With these figures before the committee, the conclusion was arrived at that the levy should be as follows, viz:

Interest on General Bonds Indebtedness, and to pay bonds due and coming due within the year a levy of one-half per centum, giving \$17,569 33
Interest on Fox, Howard & Co's bonds one-quarter of one per centum, giving \$2,374 66
General Fund, one-half per centum, giving \$17,569 33
Improvement Fund, one-quarter of one per centum, giving \$2,374 67
Total \$22,688 00

Add to this income from Licenses, &c., 4,000 00
And the total revenue of the City for the year would be \$26,688 00

Explanation.

This levy will give for the Fox, Howard & Co. fund \$975 34 less than the estimate, but this fund may be found, on settlement with that firm, to be short of the estimate. If not, the deficiency can be supplied out of the general interest fund, since the levy to pay interest on over due bonds will give an amount exceeding by several thousand dollars what is necessary.

Facts.
Your committee in pursuing their investigations, ascertained certain important facts which they believe should be laid before the council and the public.

The Scrip Account.
On the 28th of August, inst., the scrip account of the city according to the books of the Comptroller and Treasurer, was as follows, viz:

Scrip outstanding, including Fox, Howard & Co's claims, \$135,551 78
Treasury Drafts outstanding, 4,182 04
Total \$139,733 82

From this must be deducted:
Scrip held by F. H. & Co. to be settled by issuing bonds, \$114,992 24
Treasurer's balance in General Fund, Aug. 2, 1869, 1,822 10
Collected by Treasurer since August 2, 320 20
Total \$116,934 54

Which leaves scrip outstanding, \$22,800 28

Discrepancy.
We find upon an examination of the scrip register, that there is about \$5,000 more scrip outstanding than the Comptroller's reports, from which the above estimates were taken, show. This discrepancy may have arisen from neglect to mark off scrip when redeemed, but it is a matter which demands investigation, and we therefore recommend that a committee be raised for that purpose.

City's Indebtedness.
The total indebtedness of the city on August 26, 1869, we ascertained to be as follows, viz:

Bonds outstanding \$171,053 99
Scrip outstanding (including Treasury Drafts) 129,674 12
Total \$300,728 11

Less balance in Treasury:
General Fund, \$1,822 10
Contingent Fund, 300 54
Interest Fund, 2,884 93
Greenback Fund, 28 30
Filling and Grading Fund, 5,133 91
Total City indebtedness Aug 26, 1869, \$305,501 29

The Bonds.
The following table, which we have

prepared with great care, gives a statement of the bonded indebtedness of the city, viz:

OUTSTANDING BONDS, AUGUST 26, 1869.	
REMARKS.	Amount.
Advertisement \$500 post also undeposited	\$ 500 00
December 1, 1862	1,100 00
September 1, 1863	1,100 00
September 1, 1864	1,100 00
September 1, 1865	1,100 00
September 1, 1866	1,100 00
September 1, 1867	1,100 00
September 1, 1868	1,100 00
September 1, 1869	1,100 00
September 1, 1870	1,100 00
September 1, 1871	1,100 00
September 1, 1872	1,100 00
September 1, 1873	1,100 00
September 1, 1874	1,100 00
September 1, 1875	1,100 00
September 1, 1876	1,100 00
September 1, 1877	1,100 00
September 1, 1878	1,100 00
September 1, 1879	1,100 00
September 1, 1880	1,100 00
September 1, 1881	1,100 00
September 1, 1882	1,100 00
September 1, 1883	1,100 00
September 1, 1884	1,100 00
September 1, 1885	1,100 00
September 1, 1886	1,100 00
September 1, 1887	1,100 00
September 1, 1888	1,100 00
September 1, 1889	1,100 00
September 1, 1890	1,100 00
September 1, 1891	1,100 00
September 1, 1892	1,100 00
September 1, 1893	1,100 00
September 1, 1894	1,100 00
September 1, 1895	1,100 00
September 1, 1896	1,100 00
September 1, 1897	1,100 00
September 1, 1898	1,100 00
September 1, 1899	1,100 00
September 1, 1900	1,100 00
September 1, 1901	1,100 00
September 1, 1902	1,100 00
September 1, 1903	1,100 00
September 1, 1904	1,100 00
September 1, 1905	1,100 00
September 1, 1906	1,100 00
September 1, 1907	1,100 00
September 1, 1908	1,100 00
September 1, 1909	1,100 00
September 1, 1910	1,100 00
September 1, 1911	1,100 00
September 1, 1912	1,100 00
September 1, 1913	1,100 00
September 1, 1914	1,100 00
September 1, 1915	1,100 00
September 1, 1916	1,100 00
September 1, 1917	1,100 00
September 1, 1918	1,100 00
September 1, 1919	1,100 00
September 1, 1920	1,100 00
September 1, 1921	1,100 00
September 1, 1922	1,100 00
September 1, 1923	1,100 00
September 1, 1924	1,100 00
September 1, 1925	1,100 00
September 1, 1926	1,100 00
September 1, 1927	1,100 00
September 1, 1928	1,100 00
September 1, 1929	1,100 00
September 1, 1930	1,100 00
September 1, 1931	1,100 00
September 1, 1932	1,100 00
September 1, 1933	1,100 00
September 1, 1934	1,100 00
September 1, 1935	1,100 00
September 1, 1936	1,100 00
September 1, 1937	1,100 00
September 1, 1938	1,100 00
September 1, 1939	1,100 00
September 1, 1940	1,100 00
September 1, 1941	1,100 00
September 1, 1942	1,100 00
September 1, 1943	1,100 00
September 1, 1944	1,100 00
September 1, 1945	1,100 00
September 1, 1946	1,100 00
September 1, 1947	1,100 00
September 1, 1948	1,100 00
September 1, 1949	1,100 00
September 1, 1950	1,100 00
September 1, 1951	1,100 00
September 1, 1952	1,100 00
September 1, 1953	1,100 00
September 1, 1954	1,100 00
September 1, 1955	1,100 00
September 1, 1956	1,100 00
September 1, 1957	1,100 00
September 1, 1958	1,100 00
September 1, 1959	1,100 00
September 1, 1960	1,100 00
September 1, 1961	1,100 00
September 1, 1962	1,100 00
September 1, 1963	1,100 00
September 1, 1964	1,100 00
September 1, 1965	1,100 00
September 1, 1966	1,100 00
September 1, 1967	1,100 00
September 1, 1968	1,100 00
September 1, 1969	1,100 00
September 1, 1970	1,100 00
September 1, 1971	1,100 00
September 1, 1972	1,100 00
September 1, 1973	1,100 00
September 1, 1974	1,100 00
September 1, 1975	1,100 00
September 1, 1976	1,100 00
September 1, 1977	1,100 00
September 1, 1978	1,100 00
September 1, 1979	1,100 00
September 1, 1980	1,100 00
September 1, 1981	1,100 00
September 1, 1982	1,100 00
September 1, 1983	1,100 00
September 1, 1984	1,100 00
September 1, 1985	1,100 00
September 1, 1986	1,100 00
September 1, 1987	1,100 00
September 1, 1988	1,100 00
September 1, 1989	1,100 00
September 1, 1990	1,100 00
September 1, 1991	1,100 00
September 1, 1992	1,100 00
September 1, 1993	1,100 00
September 1, 1994	1,100 00
September 1, 1995	1,100 00
September 1, 1996	1,100 00
September 1, 1997	1,100 00
September 1, 1998	1,100 00
September 1, 1999	1,100 00
September 1, 2000	1,100 00
September 1, 2001	1,100 00
September 1, 2002	1,100 00
September 1, 2003	1,100 00
September 1, 2004	1,100 00
September 1, 2005	1,100 00
September 1, 2006	1,100 00
September 1, 2007	1,100 00
September 1, 2008	1,100 00
September 1, 2009	1,100 00
September 1, 2010	1,100 00
September 1, 2011	1,100 00
September 1, 2012	1,100 00
September 1, 2013	1,100 00
September 1, 2014	1,100 00
September 1, 2015	1,100 00